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COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Item 4 of the agenda

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Statement of financial implications of the proposals contained in the Report of the Working Group of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights (ST/SG/AC.5/5 and Corr.1)

The Report of the Working Group of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights (ST/SG/AC.5/5 and Corr.1) contains a number of proposals which have financial and other implications. This paper deals with those of the proposals which have significant financial implications for 1966 and thereafter. In view of the terms of General Assembly resolution 2004 (XIX), it is not possible to envisage any additional expenditures in 1965 for the purposes set out below:

I. (i) History of the Declaration of Human Rights. It is proposed that the Secretary-General be requested (in collaboration with the interested specialized agencies) to proceed immediately to prepare and make available by June 1967 "a history of the Declaration (of Human Rights) and other international instruments on human rights, with special reference to progress already achieved, current endeavours and work remaining to be done in the field of human rights, and with a brief and objective account of the role of the United Nations in the process of decolonization". The history is to be of a "very comprehensive nature, indicating also those articles of the Declaration whose acceptance and impact in national legislation have been particularly difficult"; and the Secretary-General is requested to arrange for its wide circulation in the official languages in connexion with the observance of the International Year for Human Rights.

The preparation of a history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the lines proposed would, in the Secretary-General's view, call for value judgements with reference to the acceptance of the principles of the Declaration by Member States and their impact on the national legislation of such States. He wonders if it would not be more appropriate for the task to be undertaken by one or several independent scholars, rather bhan by the Secretariat. As an alternative, and as a contribution towards the purposes in view, the Secretary-General would suggest that a history of the preparation of the various articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights might be compiled based entirely on the summary records of the preparatory bodies (the Commission on Human Rights, its Drafting Committee, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly), edited to eliminate references to purely procedural debates and elaborated where necessary to make the text understandable without reference to other documentation. The preparation of such a history would require the services of a full-time professional officer at the senior (P-5) level for a full twelve months, and full-time secretarial assistance (G-3) for him.

(ii) Among "other international instruments on human rights" are the following:

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;

Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons;

Convention on the Political Rights of Women;

Convention on the Nationality of Married Women;

Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages;

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery;

Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour (ILO);

Convention Concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (ILO); and

Convention Against Discrimination in Education (UNESCO).

Assuming that ILO could be requested to prepare a history of the Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, and of the Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, and that the UNESCO could

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similarly be requested to deal with the Convention Against Discrimination in Education, the preparation of a history of the remaining international instruments listed, on the same basis as suggested above in connexion with the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, would require the full time of one senior (P-5) officer and secretary (G-3) for one year.

The salary and ancillary costs for the two posts of senior officer and secretarial assistance would be of the order of $68,000 including common staff costs.

The volume of the edited summary records relating to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights is estimated at a minimum of 1,000 mimeographed pages of text; the volume of those relating to the other instruments (except those which would be the concern of ILO and UNESCO), is estimated at not less than 600 mimeographed pages. This material would require to be translated into the official languages, typed, and copy-prepared for printing. At an average cost of $10 per page per language, the costs for preparing the material in English, French, Spanish and Russian for printing is estimated at $48,000. The printing of sufficient number of copies in the four official languages for the "wide circulation" is estimated at $16,500, assuming press runs of 6,000 copies in English, 3,500 in French, 3,000 in Spanish, and 1,000 in Russian.

II. Human Rights Prize

In paragraph 12 of the Working Group's report it is recommended "that the United Nations should establish in 1968 an international prize to be known as the 'United Nations Human Rights Prize' to be awarded to the person who is judged to have contributed most significantly to the advancement of the cause of human rights up to the time of the award", "that the Secretary-General of the United Nations should be authorized to fix the amount of the prize, to accept contributions from private sources towards the necessary funds, to select the prize-winner and to make the award during the International Year for Human Rights". In the Secretary-General's view, it would be appropriate for him to accept the functions suggested, except that of choosing the winner of the prize. For this, a Committee consisting of eminent personalities might be more appropriate. Such a Committee might include,

for example, the President of the International Court of Justice, the President of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Assuming that the Committee would take its decision by correspondence, and that the prize would be constituted entirely from voluntary contributions with the Secretary-General acting only in a custodial capacity, it would be possible to carry out the request from within the resources of the Secretariat.

III. Special Meeting of the General Assembly

In paragraph 13 of the Working Group's report it is recommended that a special meeting of the General Assembly should be held on 10 December 1968, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which "surviving members" of the Commission on Human Rights who participated in the drafting of the Declaration should be invited to be present. Assuming that the "surviving members" would number twelve, and that travel and per diem would have to be paid to them, the costs are estimated at $17,500.

IV. Activities and ceremonies during 1968

(a) Of the activities listed by the Working Group in paragraph 13 of its report, the following could be accommodated within existing resources. If these had been costed separately these activities would have given rise to expenditures of the order of $24,000.

(i) Issue of Human Rights stamps and first-day covers;

(ii) Dissemination of the Declaration in as many languages as possible by means of printed posters, leaflets and pamphlets issued during 1968;

(iii) Documentary radio script on the Declaration;

(iv) Design and make available to Member States and States members of the specialized agencies a special poster for reproduction and distribution nationally in 1968;

(v) Lectures and articles and organization of celebrations;

(vi) Special display of relevant United Nations documents in November and December 1968.

(b) Human Rights Day concert at United Nations Headquarters in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration: no provision is made for undue expenses in connexion with arrangements for the concert or for its dissemination.

(c) The preparation and publication of a special pamphlet on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically for the International Year, would entail additional expenditures in 1967 of $18,000, assuming a pamphlet of about sixty-four printed pages in six languages (including translation) and an average printing cost of some $3,000 for each language version and about 10,000 copies per language.

V. Regional Seminars and International Conference on Human Rights

(i) Seminars. In paragraph 29 of the report of the Working Group it is suggested that a review of progress in the field of human rights within States should be carried out, in the first place, in regional seminars, one to be held in each of the four main regions of the world. The purpose of the seminars would be "(a) to discuss the methods and techniques being used by the Member States of the region in implementing human rights programmes, (b) to examine the progress made by these Member States with their national programmes and the obstacles these programmes have encountered, and (c) to reach conclusions in regard to the means whereby these national programmes can be facilitated, stimulated and improved in future".

The Working Group recommends use of seminars for this purpose in order to keep the "review" on a regional level, and points out that "there would always be the risk that in an international (presumably it means world-wide) forum such a review could be used to make unjustifiable attacks on the policies of particular Governments by excessive concentration on known defects in their domestic human rights programme". It suggests that these seminars be held in 1966-67 under the United Nations Advisory Services Programme.

(ii) Documentation for the Seminars. In paragraph 31 of the report of the Working Group it is suggested that a few expert consultants should be engaged to prepare necessary studies for consideration at the seminars, with the related expenses being covered by the Advisory Services Programme.

Assuming that the regional seminars would be organized and conducted on a scale similar to those under the Advisory Services Programme, the costs for each seminar, including preparatory documentation, would be of the order of some $35,000-$45,000. However, having regard to the terms of General Assembly resolution 926 (X), establishing the Advisory Services Programme, the Secretary-General has doubts as to whether it is appropriate to apply monies available for the Advisory Services Programme to seminars which would inter alia "examine the progress made by Member States with their national (human rights) programmes and the obstacles these programmes have encountered".

(iii) Preparatory Committee. In paragraph 31 of the report of the Working Group it is proposed that a Preparatory Committee of fifteen members should be selected by the Commission on Human Rights to consider the terms of reference, agenda, venue, duration, financing, etc., of the proposed international conference, and "the Preparatory Committee should be financed from the budgetary provisions for the Human Rights Programme or from the funds of the present Advisory Services Programme".

The Secretary-General feels that drawing upon the funds available for the Advisory Services Programme to finance the expenses relating to the Preparatory Committee would be even more inappropriate than in the circumstances referred to in (i) above. However, these costs would be relatively small if the members of the Preparatory Committee are representatives of Governments, chosen preferably from the permanent missions at Headquarters, and if the Committee holds its meetings in New York at dates arranged in consultation with the Secretary-General and fitted conveniently into the meetings programme for Headquarters.

(iv) International Conference in 1968. In so far as the proposed international conference (see paragraphs 28-35 of the report of the Working Group) is concerned, it is difficult at this stage to prepare even tentative estimates. Decisions have yet to be taken on the provisional agenda, venue, duration, number of meetings per day, languages to be used, etc., and no information is available with reference to the probable magnitude of any "voluntary contributions" from Member Governments. Assuming, however, that:

(a) the conference would be held at Headquarters, New York, for a maximum duration of three weeks, in conjunction with a regular session of the General Assembly;

(b) no more than two meetings a day are held, with interpretation into and from the official languages;

(c) preliminary documentation for the conference would be no more than 500 pages, to be translated into the working languages;

(d) besides summary records of the meetings, in-session documentation would be an average of five pages a day,

the costs for translation of the preparatory documentation into the three other languages would be $15,000 on the basis of $10 per page per language; and the costs per week of meetings would be of the order of $15,000. The final report of the Conference would no doubt require to be printed. Assuming it is some 300 mimeographed pages of text, the cost of printing in the official languages is estimated at $8,000.

(v) In paragraph 34 of the report of the Working Group it is proposed that an Executive Secretary for the Conference be appointed "at the earliest possible date". In accordance with usual practice in such cases, it would be the Secretary-General's intention to designate a senior official for this purpose once a decision on the Conference has been taken by appropriate authority. No additional costs would be involved since the official would be selected from within the existing establishment.

(vi) In paragraph 37 of the report of the Working Group, it is suggested that the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights should reconvene after 1965 and should, as required by the Secretary-General, assist in discharging the functions of clearing-house and co-ordinating centre in respect of the programme of activities connected with the International Year. While this suggestion would not have significant financial implications, assuming that the Committee conducts its business as hitherto, the Secretary-General wonders whether, with the establishment of the Preparatory Committee referred to above, there would not be a measure of overlap and duplication between that Committee and the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights.

SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL COSTS
(arising in the period 1966-1967)

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I.	History of the Declaration and other international instruments	
	- Staff services	68,000
	- Translation, typing, copy preparation	48,000
	- Printing	16,500
II.	Human Rights Prize	
III.	Activities recommended in paragraph 13 of the report of the Working Group	
	(a) Public Information activities, including the preparation of a pamphlet in six languages	18,000
	(b) Special Meeting of General Assembly on 10 December 1968	
	- Travel and subsistence of up to twelve "surviving former members" of the Commission on Human Rights	17,500
IV.	Regional Seminars and International Conference	
	- Regional Seminars (four to be organized, one in each region) at an average cost of $35,000 to $45,000 each	160,000
	- Preparatory Committee of the Conference	-
	- Executive Secretary of the Conference	-
	- International Conference (three weeks at Headquarters)	60,000
	- Printing of the report of the Conference	8,000
		$396,000